

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.-49. (Cancelled).

50. (Currently Amended) A method of imparting virus resistance to plants, said method comprising:

providing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a heterologous translation initiation factor eIF4E polypeptide at least 95 percent similar to a non-mutant translation initiation factor eIF4E of SEQ ID NO:2 and containing at least one substitution of at least one amino acid residue of SEQ ID NO:2 selected from the group consisting of T51A, P66T, V67E, K71R, L79R, G107P, and D109R and

transforming a plant with the nucleic acid molecule under conditions effective to yield a transgenic plant that overexpresses said heterologous translation initiation factor eIF4E, wherein said method is effective in imparting virus resistance to the transgenic plant.

51. (Original) The method according to claim 50, wherein said transgenic plant is resistant against viruses of the Potyviridae family.

52. (Original) The method according to claim 51, wherein said transgenic plant is resistant against Potyviridae viruses selected from the group consisting of Lettuce Mosaic Virus, Pepper Mottle Virus, Potato Virus Y, Tobacco Etch Virus, and Turnip Mosaic Virus.

53. (Cancelled).

54. (Original) A transgenic plant produced according to the method of claim 50.

55. (Currently Amended) The transgenic plant according to claim 54, wherein said transgenic plant is selected from the group consisting of rice, wheat, barley, rye, cotton, sunflower, peanut, corn, potato, sweet potato, bean, pea, chicory, lettuce, endive, cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, turnip, radish, spinach, onion, garlic, eggplant, pepper, celery, carrot, squash, pumpkin, zucchini, cucumber, apple, pear, melon, strawberry, grape, raspberry, pineapple, soybean, tobacco, tomato, sorghum, sugarcane, banana, mung bean, alfalfa, rye, brussels sprout, beet, parsnip, citrus, *Arabidopsis*, *Saintpaulia*, *petunia*, *pelargonium*, *poinsettia*, *chrysanthemum*, *carnation*, and *zinnia*.

56. (Currently Amended) A component part of the transformed plant according to claim 54.

57. (Currently Amended) A fruit of the transformed plant according to claim 54.

58. (Currently Amended) A plant seed produced from the transformed plant according to claim 54.

59. (New) The method according to claim 50, wherein the nucleic acid molecule encodes a polypeptide at least 95 percent similar to translation initiation factor eIF4E of SEQ ID NO:1.

60. (New) The method according to claim 50, wherein the amino acid residue substitution comprises T51A.

61. (New) The method according to claim 50, wherein the amino acid residue substitution comprises P66T.

62. (New) The method according to claim 50, wherein the amino acid residue substitution comprises V67E.

63. (New) The method according to claim 50, wherein the amino acid residue substitution comprises K71R.

64. (New) The method according to claim 50, wherein the amino acid residue substitution comprises L79R.

65. (New) The method according to claim 50, wherein the amino acid residue substitution comprises G107P.

66. (New) The method according to claim 50, wherein the amino acid residue substitution comprises D109R.

67. (New) The method according to claim 50, wherein the polypeptide has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.